(b) if so, how many times the DESU sent SOS to the Central Government;

(c) what are the details of the SOS; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the power shortage position in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has been asking for allocation of additional power from the Bhakra Beas Management Board and reminders have also been received. The power supply position in Delhi is by and large satisfactory. Shortages, which have been marginal, have been mainly on account of unforeseen outages of some units and constraints in the transmission system. During 1987-88, an assistance of 1734 million units was made available to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking from the Northern Region including Bhakra Beas Management Board system.

(d) To meet the growing demand in Delhi, steps have been taken to improve the performance of IP and Badarpur power stations, strengthening the transmission and distribution systems in Delhi and setting up of 135 MW capacity at Rajghat power station.

In addition, the National Capital Power Project of 840 MW has also been sanctioned to meet the long term power requirements of the National Capital.

The gas-based power station at Dadri with a capacity of 600 MW is also envisaged.

Increase in the prices of essential drugs

673. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that after the new Drug Price Control Order was introduced last year, prices of about 300 medicines, many of them vital drugs for treating serious ailments, have been shot up upto 420 per cent;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study conducted by Bharat Upbhokta Sahkar, a consumer cooperatives Society in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to bring down the prices of essential drugs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) After the introduction of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987, while the prices of some medicines have increased the prices of some other medicines have gone down also, depending on the MAPES and categorisation.

(b) to (d) As per the provisions of DPCO, 1987, manufacturers of decontrolled medicines are free to revise the prices. However Government is keeping a watch and has intervened wherever found necessary. On Government's direct intervention, 15 manufacturers have brought down the prices of 55 packs of formulations/bulk drugs to reasonable levels.

Financial disaster of the Farakka Super Thermal Power Project

674. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been dranw to the news item which appeared in the 'Financial Express" of 20th June, 1988, stating that Farakka Super Thermal Power Project, a unit of NTPC is heading towards a financial disaster and darker days are ahead for this project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and